Removal of import duty on cotton

1695. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation to remove import duty on cotton and cotton waste, since global cotton rate has increased upto 40 per cent, and

(b) if so, the details of action taken by Government to help ailing mills due to sharp increase in the raw material cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of above.

Non-utilisation of funds by commodity Boards

1696. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funds allocated for commodity boards, Agriculture and Processed Food Product Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) were not utilized fully during the Tenth plan period;

(b) if so, the actual allocation for the Commodity Boards during the Tenth plan and reasons for un-utilization of funds;

(c) the negative impact in Commodity Boards due to un-utilization of allocated funds; and

(d) the details of proposed allocation of funds for the Eleventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Tea Board, Rubber Board, Spices Board, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority(APEDA) and Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) had fully utilized the funds allocated to them during the Tenth Plan. Coffee Board had utilized Rs. 216.46 crore out of the allocated funds of Rs. 261.12 crore.

(b) and (c) The Tenth plan allocation and actual utilization of funds in respect of Coffee Board are as under:

(Rupees in crores)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total
Allocation	48.00	52.00	50.00	51.50	59.62	261.12
Utilisation	34.68	45.54	37.01	42.42	56.81	216.46